

PRIVATE SECURITY AGENT (SECURITY GUARD)

Licensing Authority Tina Woosley
Private Security Agency Licensing
Program Services Bureau
Iowa Department of Public Safety
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Legal Authority Code of Iowa, Chapter 80A; Iowa Administrative Code 661, Chapter 2

Job Description A private security agent (security guard) provides patrol or guard services for residences, industrial property or business property. This is to protect people or property, to prevent the unlawful taking of goods and merchandise, or to prevent the misappropriation or concealment of goods, merchandise, money, securities, or other valuable documents or papers. They may also operate armored cars and must file written reports concerning activities for the client.

Education & Experience Required A person wishing to become a licensed, independent guard **must**:

- 1) be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States,
- 2) be of good moral character, have no convictions for an aggravated misdemeanor or a felony, and have never been convicted of assault resulting from domestic abuse,
- 3) not be an abuser of alcohol or controlled substance, nor have a history of mental illness, instability or a history of repeated acts of violence,
- 4) submit pictures, fingerprints and license fee(s) along with a completed application to the Commissioner of Public Safety,
- 5) pass a written examination,
- 6) be able to show proof of financial responsibility and must be approved for a \$5,000 surety bond; this will be \$10,000 if applying for more than one license under this chapter.

For those wishing to work as an employee for an agency, only the *first four* requirements above apply. Licensed agencies must also submit an employee I.D. card application along with the items in number four. The agency purchases these applications (\$10 each) from the Department of Public Safety prior to the employee completing it.

Continuing Education There are no continuing education requirements.

Examination Applicants must pass Private Security License Exam, which is given by the

Department of Public Safety at the Wallace State Office Building once a month.

Fees License: (Security Guard, Bail Enforcement Agent, Private Investigator):
\$100 – each license
\$30 – fingerprint fee for each license holder
Renewal: \$100 for each two-year license. The Department of Public Safety is responsible for sending out renewal notices (usually 30 days prior to license expiration).
\$30 – fingerprint fee for each license holder
Exam: None
Other: Application – \$10 - Identification Card fee (one card needed, no matter how many license types; no expiration, to work for that particular agency only)
\$2 - Application Packet (in person)
\$3 - Application Packet (by mail)

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage 33-9032 – Security Guards (\$9.59)

Number of Licenses Issued Total number of licenses active as of December 31,
2002: 101
2001: 108
2000: 108